Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 097505
ORIGIN EUR-12

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TO AMEMBASSY SOFIA
INFO AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 097505

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:BEXP, SHUM, EEWT, ETRD, PFOR

SUBJECT: NIMETZ/GRIGOROV MEETING, APRIL 13

1. BULGARIAN AMBASSADOR GRIGOROV MADE AN INITIAL CALL ON THE COUNSELOR ON APRIL 13. FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF THE DISCUSSION.

2. BILATERAL RELATIONS. GRIGOROV NOTED THAT BILATERAL RELATIONS HAD IMPROVED RECENTLY AND SEVERAL TIMES STATED CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 STATE 097505

HIS DESIRE THAT THIS PROCESS CONTINUE DURING HIS TENURE IN WASHINGTON. NIMETZ DESCRIBED OUR POLICY OF DEALING WITH EACH EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRY ON AN INDIVIDUAL BASIS. BULGARIA AND THE US HAVE OBSTACLES TO OVERCOME AND WE SHOULD THINK ABOUT HOW TO MOVE FORWARD. THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT IS A GOOD BASIS FOR IMPROVING RELATIONS. NIMETZ NOTED THE SIGNED EXCHANGES AGREEMENT

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

AS A POSITIVE STEP IN OUR RELATIONS AND IN OUR MUTUAL INTEREST. RESOLUTION OF THE BOND ISSUE AND DIVIDED FAMILIES WOULD HELP TO IMPROVE RELATIONS. GRIGOROV AGREED THAT EXCHANGES ARE USEFUL, ESPECIALLY BETWEEN FOREIGN MINISTRIES.

2. BALKAN COOPERATION. GRIGOROV SAID THE GOB'S POLICY ON BALKAN COOPERATION IS TO COOPERATE IN ALL FIELDS AS THE REALITY OF THE SITUATION ALLOWS. COOPERATION IS POSSIBLE IN SOME AREAS WHICH DO NOT INVOLVE POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS.

3. MFN. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION, NIMETZ SAID THERE IS NO BASIC DIFFERENCE IN OUR TREATMENT OF HUNGARY AND ROMANIA WITH RESPECT TO MFN, ALTHOUGH THE TWO TRADE AGREEMENTS DO DIFFER. THEY ARE PUBLIC DOCUMENTS AND WE WOULD BE HAPPY TO PROVIDE GRIGOROV WITH COPIES. NIMETZ ADDED THAT, BY LAW, THESE ARE THREE YEAR AGREEMENTS SUBJECT TO AN ANNUAL RENEWAL OF THE EMIGRATION PROVISION. GRIGOROV ASKED HOW LONG JACKSON/ VANIK WILL STAND. NIMETZ SAID WE HAVE NO PLANS TO CHALLENGE IT THIS YEAR. CHANGING IT DEPENDS ON US/USSR RELATIONS. GRIGOROV NOTED A CORRELATION BETWEEN US/BULGARIAN AND US/USSR RELATIONS AND STRESSED HIS INTEREST IN CONTINUING DETENTE. NIMETZ SAID HE UNDERSTOOD BULGARIA'S POSITION. PROGRESS DEPENDS ON CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 STATE 097505

BILATERAL EFFORTS AS WELL AS THE GENERAL, WORLD SITUATION. THE SECRETARY IS HOPEFUL, AND WE HAVE MADE PROGRESS ON SALT. WE WILL HAVE A BETTER IDEA AFTER THE SECRETARY RETURNS FROM MOSCOW.

4. BULGARIAN ECONOMY. GRIGOROV SAID BULGARIA DID NOT REACH ITS TARGETS LAST YEAR, ESPECIALLY IN AGRICULTURE, DUE TO A SERIES OF NATURAL DISASTERS. BULGARIA IS NOW ECONOMICALLY SELF-SUFFICIENT. (SIC) IT STRESSES PRODUCT QUALITY AND TECHNOLOGY AND WANTS TO EXPAND TRADE WITH THE U.S. TWENTY-ONE PER CENT ($2 BILLION OF $11 BILLION) OF BULGARIA'S FOREIGN TRADE IS WITH NON-CEMA COUNTRIES. THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES HAVE 7-8 OF THE TOTAL. BULGARIA FINDS IT EASIER TO TRADE WITH WESTERN EUROPE AND JAPAN THAN WITH THE U.S.

5. CEAUCESCU VISIT. NIMETZ SAID THAT OUR ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH ROMANIA ARE GOOD AND WE ARE DISCUSSING A BROAD RANGE OF ISSUES WITH CEAUSESCU. NIMETZ ADDED THAT ROMANIA HAS MADE SOME ACCOMODATIONS TO OUR TRADE LAW IN ORDER TO QUALIFY FOR MFN AND SUGGESTED THAT BULGARIA LOOK CLOSELY AT THE HUNGARIAN TRADE AGREEMENT.

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